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Daily Highlights

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement, says Iraq has only "selectively and then partially" complied with obligations under resolution 687 (1991); Council addressed by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz; Director General of IAEA, Hans Blix; Chairman of Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament, Rolf Ekeus; Under-Secretary-General Jan Eliasson; and Special Rapporteur Max van der Stoel.

+ Latest face-to-face talks between leaders of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities in Cyprus did "not meet expectations", overall framework agreement "did not materialize", says Secretary-General.

+ Despite cease-fire, heavy fighting reported in Sarajevo yesterday and today; Mixed Military Group scheduled to meet today.

+ Secretary-General requests former Norwegian ambassador, Tom Vraalsen, to undertake mission to South Africa to assess how United Nations contribution to peace process can be enhanced.

+ Voter registration campaign in Cambodia passing 2 million mark today, according to United Nations Transition Authority in Cambodia.

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The Security Council has concluded that Iraq so far "only selectively and then partially" has complied with the obligations placed upon it by the Council under resolution 687 (1991). The decision was contained in a statement read out by the Council President at a meeting this morning to review Iraq's compliance with its obligations under that resolution and to consider the repression in Iraq.

In his statement, Council President André Erdos of Hungary said he hoped today's meeting would prove a valuable opportunity to impress once again on Iraq "the imperative need for full compliance" and to obtain commitments which would be in the interest of world peace and security, as well as that of the Iraqi people. While noting that "progress has been made in the implementation of section C of the resolution", the statement also said that "much remains to

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be done". In particular, Iraq needed to provide full, final, and complete disclosure of all aspects of its programmes for weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles with a greater range than 150 kilometres.

With regard to the human rights situation in Iraq, the Council expressed deep concern "at the grave human rights abuses ... the Government of Iraq continues to perpetrate against its population, in particular in the northern region of Iraq, in southern Shi'a Centres and in the southern marshes", as confirmed by reports by the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Commission.

The Council expressed particular concern at "the reported restrictions on the supplies ... of food and fuel, which have been imposed by Iraq on the three northern governorates of Dohuk, Erbil and Suleimaniya". In that regard, it said, "inasmuch as the repression of the population continues, the threat to internaitonal peace and security in the region ... remains".

Among those addressing today's Council meeting, Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq, said his Government had destroyed 9,983 pieces of weapons, including equipment which could have been spared for civilian and industrial use. In spite of this, he said, the status of the embargo imposed on Iraq remained unchanged and the Iraqi people continued to suffer from dire shortage of food and medicine.

"No matter what Iraq does in fulfilment of the obligations imposed upon it by resolution 687, the unjust sentence past by the Council to starve the people of Iraq and deny them the right to life remains in place", Mr. Aziz said. The Council was refusing to deal with Iraq in accordance with international law, the United Nations Charter, the rules of morality, and the text of resolution 687 itself, he said.

Hans Blix, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said that while Iraq had provided much information to the Agency, "decisions have been taken at a political level in Iraq not to provide key procurement information", Mr. Blix said. He concluded that in that important area there was "no full, final and complete disclosure". In fact, he said, there was "hardly any disclosure".

Mr. Blix called for continued on-site inspection of designated sites due to Iraq's unwillingness so far to reveal foreign sources of equipment, material and technology.

Rolf Ekeus, Chairman of the Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament, told the Council that eight months ago, he had reported "an impasse" in the Commission's work. Since March this year, he said, "this has been yet again and even more forcefully confirmed". Iraq had consistently refused to acknowledge its obligations and had still not provided the full disclosure of all aspects of its weapons programmes, as called for by the Council.

Iraq claimed that it had destroyed all records and documents relating to proscribed activities under resolution 687, Mr. Ekeus said. But the Commission found it nearly "inconceivable that Iraq spent billions of dollars

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and years of research on its programmes and that it has now destroyed every record of those programmes". Without supporting authentic documentation, he said, it was not possible to substantiate the information supplied by Iraq.

Jan Eliasson, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, said that for the success of the "important and complex" humanitarian relief operation, it was now essential to have both the cooperation of the Iraqi Government and the financial support of Member States.

While the focus had been on the situation in the north, there were urgent needs in other parts of the country, not least in the south, where the situation in the health and sanitation sectors was particularly serious. "From the United Nations' side", he said, "we count on continued cooperation for the duration of the programme from the Government of Iraq, on such matters as issuance of visas, travel and truck permits, cooperation in having activities and field presence in the south, agreement on reasonable pricing of fuel and cooperation with relevant NGOs on the basis of the MOU and Plan of Action".

At the time of the signing of the MOU in October, financial resources were seriously lacking, he continued. The new Central Emergency Revolving Fund had to be used for urgent deliveries of fuel to the north. Some contributions had been received in the last few weeks, but if the United Nations was to deliver humanitarian aid on an urgent basis, it was important that substantial contributions be made "in the very near future".

Max van der Stoel, Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, told the Council that "present order in Iraq has all the characteristics of a totalitarian system" and precluded full respect of human rights obligations. Specifically, so long as the rule of law remained "undermined by the parallel orders of extra judicial and even extra legal rule administered essentially by a security apparatus only accountable to the inner circle of the Presidency, there cannot be any meaningful enjoyment of human rights or any genuine respect for the dignity of the individual".

Mr. van der Stoel said the Government of Iraq had failed to take advantage of the so-called "food for oil" formula devised by the Security Council to enlarge its food and medicaments resources. He urged that the Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations and Iraq be immediately and fully implemented, and that Iraq move quickly to accepts the terms of a United Nations supervised sale of oil which would enlarge food and medical resources. He also recommended that the Government of Iraq accept the deployment of human rights monitors throughout the country, especially in the southern area.

The last comprehensive review of Iraq's compliance with Council resolutions, conducted in formal and open meetings, was held mid-March and attended by an Iraqi high-level delegation led by Mr. Aziz.
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The outcome of the latest face-to-face talks between the two leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities in Cyprus had "not met expectations", and the objectives set by the Security Council to reach an overall framework agreement "did not materialize" during those talks, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said.

In his report to the Council, containing his assessment of the recent talks held at Headquarters from 28 October to 11 November, the Secretary-General noted that the discussions "demonstrated that differences remain between the positions of each side and the set of ideas" put forward by him. In particular, the report said, "some of the positions voiced by the Turkish Cypriot side are, in a fundamental way, outside the framework of the set of ideas", namely on the "concept of the federation; displaced persons; and territorial adjustments".

The Secretary-General cited "a deep crisis of confidence between the two sides" and said it was "difficult to envisage any successful outcome to the talks for as long as this situation prevails". Calling for the adoption by both sides of "confidence-building measures", the Secretary-General proposed a number of measures to be adopted in advance of the next round of joint meetings scheduled for next March.

Among such measures, he wrote, "the Turkish Forces on the island should be reduced to their level of a decade ago, and this should be reciprocated by the suspension of weapons acquisition programmes on the Greek Cypriot side". Those measures would be most timely in view of the imminent reductions in the personnel and resources of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). The Secretary-General also proposed the promotion of people-to-people contacts between the two communities, which would contribute to the breaking down of barriers of mistrust.
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The Secretary-General has requested Tom Vraalsen, Assistant Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway and former Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations, to undertake a mission to South Africa, starting today. He is to meet there with senior government officials and with representatives of other relevant organizations to discuss the latest developments in the country, and on the basis of those meetings, to assess how the United Nations' contribution to the peace process might be enhanced.

Mr. Vraalsen, who will also be briefed by Angela King, Chief of the United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa (UNOMSA) on the deployment of the mission, is expected to report to the Secretary-General by 12 December.

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Despite the cease-fire in Bosnia and Herzegovina, fighting was heavy in Sarajevo yesterday and today, Fred Eckhard, Spokesman for the Co-Chairmen of

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the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, told the press in Geneva today. He said that a meeting of the Mixed Military Group, which organized the most recent cease-fire, was scheduled to take place in Sarajevo today.

Addressing the press on the activities of the Co-Chairmen, he said Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen were meeting this afternoon with the Prime Minister of Greece, Constantinos Mitsotakis, and that they would particularly welcome the opportunity to discuss the question of Macedonia and Kosovo.

Martti Ahtisaari, Chairman of the Conference Working Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina, is expected to meet with the three parties to the conflict there. The Spokesman said he would hold initial discussions with them on the boundaries of the provinces to be established under a new Constitution for the country.

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The voter registration campaign in Cambodia might have passed the two million mark today, according to the Spokesman for the United Nations Transition Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). Pointing out that over 300,000 voters had been registered just in Phnom Penh, he attributed "this remarkable achievement" to the great cooperation between all those taking part, including the enormously enthusiastic Cambodian registration teams.

Registration was due to start today, he said, in the remaining two provinces of Bantey Meanchey and Preah Vihear. The campaign had been effective throughout Cambodia, except for the zones under the control of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in a report issued on Friday, said that timetable for the elections scheduled for May 1993 must be maintained, despite the fact that the Party of Democratic Kampuchea had "not found it possible so far" to cooperate in the implementation of the Paris peace agreements.

The Spokesman also said that 200 boxes of toys donated by the people of Canada would be distributed by the Naval Component of UNTAC to villages along the Tonlo Sap and Mekong rivers, starting on Wednesday.

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